

5-0! BUT IT'S YAWNS ALL THE WAY

IT'S a sign of the times that Wycombe Wanderers' latest goal avalanche should raise little more than yawns all round from a near 2,000 strong crowd at Loakes Park on Saturday.

For such an impressive score-line no longer means anything by itself — except of course two more vital points to keep pace with pacesetters Sutton United.

Complacency? Expecting the Earth? No. There was far too much of the kick-and-hope about everything to do with Maidstone's visit to accuse the fans of over-criticism.

For all their five goals, Wanderers involved themselves in a dull, lifeless bore of a game — not helped to any degree by United's obvious inferiority complex.

Maidstone came praying for a pain, not expecting heavy punishment. They got it, with Wanderers effortlessly emphasising the widening class gap in Isthmian League football today.

Due to the black-out fiasco at Woking, Wycombe kicked off fresh from their 9-0 Floodlight League dissection of Oxford City — a victory achieved at much less than full strength.

Despite Les Hartbridge's enforced absence from midfield, Wanderers fielded one of their first choice permutations, and enjoyed an automatic superiority with the Stones throwing little at them in the way of opposition.

Never did they look likely to avert the League "double" begun in Kent last August when the Blues won 4-1.

Until injury forced his early retirement, visiting 'keeper Peter Tait was put through the Wycombe pincer.

After 17 minutes a Bremer free-kick headed home by Tony Horseman put Wanderers ahead, and in the 25th minute, Wycombe's leading scorer added their second to a pronounced hush from confused spectators.

Tate had been hit in the throat during a collision with Johnny Hutchinson, and ended up stretched out to the inside edge of the area. Maidstone made the mistake of awaiting the whistle, but goal hungry Horseman wasn't that patient. He took the loose ball and deposited it into goal while all others stood still.

A quick conference took place between referee Teale and his linesman to sort out the mess — and Wycombe led 2-0.

Mr. Teale also allowed a generous amount of time for Tate to receive treatment. But after six minutes hold up, Maidstone left half Bobby Evans took over in goal while substitute Hutchins filled the gap.

If Wycombe relished the thought of a makeshift 'keeper they soon thought again.

With nine minutes to the interval, Bremer's lob seemed destined for goal until Evans ran back and punched the ball back over the bar for a corner.

By MIKE WHITESMAN: Wycombe W. 5, Maidstone Utd. 0

first appearance between the posts, as he made abundantly clear again eight minutes later by saving a fiery John Delaney penalty.

Hutchinson had won the spot kick for Wycombe from Tony McGuinness after a deal of hustling. With Delaney, penalties are normally a formality — but 'keeper Evans frowned on the conventional to body down his hellraising shot and send Maidstone in only two down at half time.

Saturday provided somewhat of a reunion for four former Wealdstone players. Wycombe's trio — Searle, Bremer and Hutchinson — met Maidstone's

McGuinness, around whom the United defence revolved.

In the visitors' backrow was debut making Arthur Ashley from Carshalton Athletic. Between Ashley and Evans, came a desperate attempt to forestall Wycombe's third goal six minutes into the new half. But Searle won the jump, to head the ball home even though he did look a little dazed as a result.

Wanderers' tally spiralled higher via further goals in the 62nd and 63rd minute. The former, saw Bremer put his boot to the ball to finish off the untidy scramble Searle's shot had begun, while the latter was a

straight forward crack at goal by Searle again.

Five minutes later Maidstone were reduced to ten men for the remainder of the game as winger Les True hobbled off with ankle trouble; and a depleted side doesn't pull back from five down anywhere outside fairy tales.

The final 20 minutes were played out under floodlights as bad light put paid to any advantage that may have been gained by the 2.45 p.m. kick off.

A power cut alone could have saved Maidstone, although Ted Powell miskicked a good chance in the 72nd minute after Horseman had skilfully retained the

ball inside the visitors' six on the line.

Bringing on Geoff Anson for Hutchinson for the 15 minutes, Wycombe went near to number six in the 77th minute. A defender blunted another Searle effort on the edge of the box and Keith Blunt belted return goalwards only for Searle to parry the shot and collect it.

Hutchins waited just a moment too long when placed in front of Wycombe's net two minutes later. He put up an open shot which Johnny Maskell going the way. The 'keeper none the less managed to divert it finally round a post to keep goal intact.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS: Maskell, P. Fuschillo, K. E. Powell, J. Delaney, B. L. Pritchard, B. Bremer, K. A. Horseman, J. Hutchinson, G. Anthony, 75th minute.

MAIDSTONE UNITED: P. R. Constable, A. Ashley, T. ham, A. McGuinness, R. G. Osborne, M. Angel, S. L. Illsley, L. True (sub R. H. 25th for Tate).

Referee: A. A. Teale (Lea). Attendance: 1965. Half time: 2-0. Goal Wycombe—Horseman 2 (1 Searle 2 (51, 63), Bremer (



Bernie Bremer (8) gets a final touch to the ball as Wanderers scramble home goal number four